# ATP Annual Meeting November 16, 1999

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### **Outline**

- ATP project overview
- Company background
- Status and timeline
- Future directions and challenges
- Summary

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### **ATP Project Overview**

Area: Photonics Manufacturing

Title: Low-Cost WDM Optical

Amplifier and Switch
Manufacturing Technology

Period: 11/1/1998 to 4/30/2001

Total Project Cost: \$5,300,000

NIST Award: \$2,000,000

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# Photonic Component Market: The View from 30,000 feet

- Insatiable demand for bandwidth
- Transition to all-optical networks
- Extension to metro and access applications
- Unit demand growing >100% per year

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# **Photonic Component Market:** The View from Treetop Level

- Photonics lags electronics
- Hand-crafted by elves
- Supply-demand imbalances
- Scalability in question

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"Ultimately, it's a chip game."

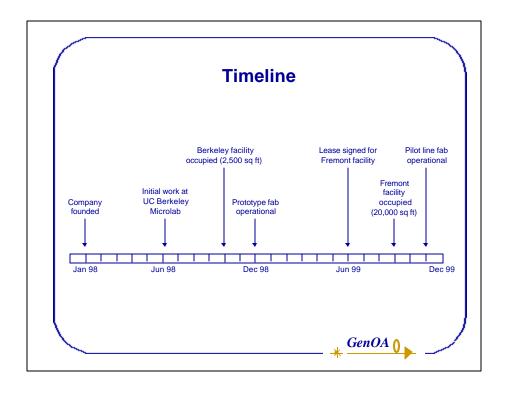
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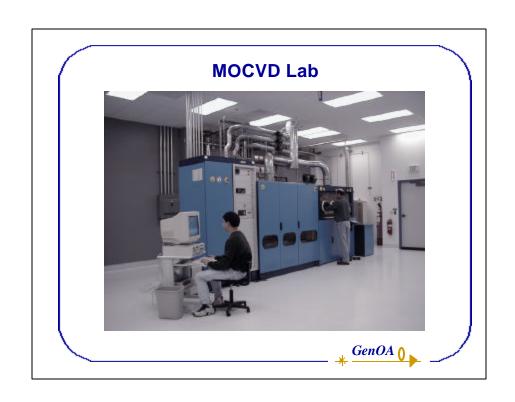
### GenOA's Goal

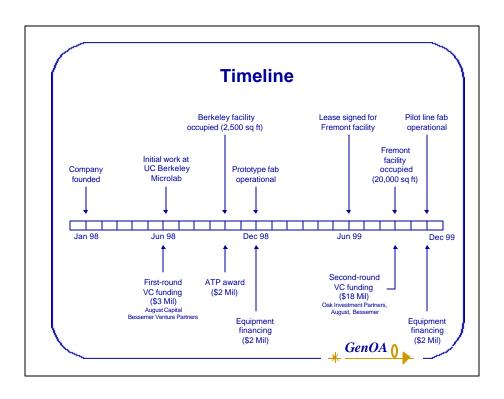
Bring to market a scalable photonic IC technology for optical communications based on a new class of semiconductor amplifier and switch building blocks.











#### **Photonics and VC's**

- Communications and Internet driving VC investments (\$7.7B so far in 1999)
- VC's are already seeing big payoffs in optical networking (Ciena, AFC, Cerent, Sycamore...)
- \$1B funds now being raised, investing big chunks
- Photonics no longer viewed as just a niche
- Balancing risks: technical, market, financing, team



## **Future Directions and Challenges**

- Shaking out and qualifying pilot line manufacturing
- Launching first-generation component products
- Scaling to higher functionality
- Packaging is still (and always will be?) the ultimate limitation

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## **Summary**

- Optical communications is booming (customers and investors)
- Many opportunities for innovation at the component level
- Photonic IC technology can help break through the functionality-performance-cost barrier
- ATP and VC funding are highly complementary

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